

Possible occurrence of the American Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris alpestris* Linnaeus in Britain

By COL. R. MEINERTZHAGEN.

Colonel Meinertzhagen also exhibited a specimen of the Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) believed to belong to the American race (*E. a. alpestris* L) but requiring confirmation by the B.O.U. Taxonomic Subcommittee. It was obtained in South Uist on 29th September, 1953.

Four Birds new to Northern Rhodesia

By MR. C. M. N. WHITE AND MAJOR I. R. GRIMWOOD.

Received 11th September, 1954

One of us (I.R.G.) recently paid a brief visit to an evergreen forest patch at the source of the Zambesi in the Mwinilunga district of Northern Rhodesia and was fortunate in finding many forest birds attending a column of army ants, a habit which has been frequently noted in the Congo basin and Cameroons. Four species collected proved to be new to Northern Rhodesia and southward extensions of known range. The first three have been recently collected by W. S. Fisher at Kasaji in the Katanga not far over the border (specimens in the Congo Museum, Tervuren); the last mentioned has not been so far reported from Kasaji. The species concerned are:

Bleda syndactyla tricolor (Bocage). Chapin has pointed out that this name is evidently based on the bird later called *B.s.ogowensis* Neumann.

Cf. Bds. Belgian Congo. 3.p.179. 1953.

Tchitrea rufiventer ignea (Reichenow).

Stizorhina fraseri rubicunda (Hartlaub). For the use of the subspecific name for the mainland population cf. Amadon. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 100. Art. 3. p.425. 1953.

Cossypha polioptera polioptera Reichenow. The two specimens with grey crowns, white brow stripes and a black stripe through eye to side of hind crown clearly belong to this species which has a curious distribution as far as known. The main range is from the S.E. Sudan (Lotti forest) to Uganda and the adjacent areas (Bukoba and Mahagi). It has also been recorded in N. Angola at Ndala Tando. These records slightly bridge the gap but it remains to be seen whether or not these more western birds are really quite identical with the nominate form described from Bukoba on L. Victoria.

On the Nomenclature of the Himalayan Goldcrests.

By H. G. DEIGNAN

Received 20th September, 1954

A recent review of the races of *Regulus regulus* (Vaurie, Amer. Mus. Nov. 1684: 1-7, 1954) divides Himalayan populations between a western

race, *himalayensis* Jerdon, 1863, and an eastern race, *sikkimensis* R. and A. Meinertzhagen, 1926. Unfortunately, neither of these names can be used.

Bonaparte described *Regulus* *himalayensis* in Comptes Rendus Acad. Sci. (Paris), tome 42, No. 17, session of 28th April, 1856, p. 767 (“*Similis cristato, sed major, rostro longiore et crista citrina vix aurantiaca, superciliis nigris latissimis*”), with type locality “les monts Himalaya.” His type specimen was a male belonging to Gould, later to be portrayed in Gould’s *The Birds of Asia* 4 (21), April, 1869, and still later to be listed as specimen *b.* of the “Himalayan Race” in *Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum* 8: 82, 1883. Since the specimen was from Nepal, *himalayensis* Bonaparte, 1856, must be applied to the eastern race.

Jerdon’s *Regulus Himalayensis* (*The Birds of India* 2 (1): 206, 1863) was named independently of Bonaparte’s, and since he believed that the Himalayan form occurred only “in the N. W. Himalayas,” it is clear that his type can only have been the male in Blyth’s possession collected on 20th October, 1845 by Surgeon-General L. C. Stewart and/or Captain Thomas at Kotgarh in the Simla Hill States (see *The Zoologist* (3) 10: 443, 1886), not at Simla as believed by the Meinertzhagens, who were led astray by Blyth himself (*Catalogue of the Birds in the Museum Asiatic Society*, 1849, p. 186).

Since the earlier *himalayensis* of Bonaparte must be used for the eastern race, *sikkimensis* of the Meinertzhagens becomes its synonym, and the western Himalayan form is left without a valid name. It may be called

Regulus regulus salimalii, new name

for *Regulus Himalayensis* “Blyth” Jerdon, *The Birds of India* 2 (1): 206, 1863 (Kotgarh), not *Regulus* *himalayensis* Bonaparte, 1856 (Nepal).

An Unusual Example of Symmetrical Albinism in the Carrion-Crow *Corvus corone corone* Linnaeus

By MR. BRYAN L. SAGE.

Received 3rd November, 1954

On 2nd October, 1954, whilst travelling down the Watford By-Pass near Aldenham, Herts, I saw on a piece of waste land an adult Carrion-Crow with a considerable amount of white on the closed wings. I put the bird to flight and saw that it had three fairly wide white transverse bars on the upper surface of each wing, these gave the bird a most peculiar appearance when in flight.

The only other record of symmetrical albinism in this species of which I am aware is that of a bird with light grey bastard wings seen near Ulceby, Lincolnshire, on 16th July, 1872, and recorded by J. Cordeaux in the *Zoologist*, 1872: 3207.